(b) The benefits available under the scheme are old-age pension, personal accident and health insurance cover.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

**Child labourers in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh**

*251. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of child labourers estimated in the country, particularly in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh as on January, 2004;

(b) the action taken by the Central as well as the State Governments upto the year 2003-04 to check child labour alongwith the details of success achieved in this regard; and

(c) the action contemplated in this behalf for the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) As per 2001 Census figures (provisional), the number of working children in the country is 1.259 crore. In Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, the number of working children as per 2001 Census figures (provisional) are 10,65,259; 3,64,572 and 12,62,570 respectively.

(b) Government of India is implementing National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) all over the country including the States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work. The project is implemented through the NCLP Societies. The District Collector/District Magistrate is the Chairperson of the NCLP Society. He is in-charge of the project implementation and for the overall monitoring of the project components. The numbers of children covered through special schools under National Child Labour Projects Scheme so far are 6400 in Madhya Pradesh, 13,400 inChhattisgarh and 20,550 in Rajasthan.

(c) The Tenth Plan strategy proposes to eliminate child labour in hazardous sector through the National Child Labour Projects Scheme. Children between the ages of 5-8 would be put into primary schools under the Sarva ShikshaAbhiyan (SSA) and children between the ages of 9-14 would be put into primary schools after attending the special schools run under the NCLPs.

**Abolition of contract labour**

†*252. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.